WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Molestation by GRP Jawans

†*444. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news item which appeared in the Hindi daily, "Dainik Jagaran" dated the 4th August, 2000 under the caption "GRP Jawanon ne toilet mein yuvti se dushkaram ke bad premi-yugal ko train se phainka"; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto and the action taken against the accused GRP jawans and to protect the victims of the incident who are struggling between life and death in AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to Entry No. 2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, "Police' (including Railway and Village police), is a state subject. Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on the running trains is the Constitutional responsibility of the State Government concerned which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP). Therefore, the report in this case was asked for from the GRP, Haryana.

The Government Railway Police, Haryana, has reported that no such incident of misbehaviour by GRP personnel had taken place and the couple actually jumped off the train to avoid being caught travelling without ticket. Both the injured persons have been treated at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.

However, for this unfortunate incident, Indian Railways have ordered for a separate departmental inquiry.

Threat to the elephants in Karnataka forests

*445. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVI- RONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether elephants in the forests of Karnataka are under the threat of losing their original habitat and many are migrating to new areas;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.